

AMENDMENT TO DIVISION A OF THE RULES
COMMITTEE PRINT 115-31
OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON OF MINNESOTA

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

1 ZERO WASTE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION

2 SEC. ____.

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Administrator of the
4 Environmental Protection Agency (in this section referred
5 to as the “Administrator”) shall award grants to local gov-
6 ernments or consortia of local governments, which may be
7 acting in coordination with one or more nongovernmental
8 entities. The grants shall be used to develop solid waste
9 prevention, reuse, and recycling tactics and operations,
10 which may include—

11 (1) development or deployment of technologies
12 or practices to increase rates of waste prevention,
13 reuse, recycling, or composting;

14 (2) capital investment in infrastructure to start
15 or expand waste prevention, reuse, recycling,
16 composting, or product reuse programs;

1 (3) partnerships with local businesses interested
2 in incorporating new technologies or processes to re-
3 duce or prevent waste in production or packaging; or

4 (4) community outreach and public education
5 programming, including programming to—

6 (A) increase community knowledge of ef-
7 fective waste prevention, reuse, recycling, or
8 composting; and

9 (B) increase behavior that will reduce over-
10 all household waste generation.

11 (b) GRANT REVIEW.—

12 (1) GRANT AWARDEES.—Grants shall be award-
13 ed under this section to applicants that collectively
14 represent a range of existing waste prevention,
15 reuse, recycling, and composting rates. In order to
16 be considered for this award, applicants must—

17 (A) set specific waste prevention, reuse, re-
18 cycling, composting, or public education goals
19 that will bring communities closer to zero
20 waste;

21 (B) have a clearly established plan to use
22 grant funds for one or more of the purposes de-
23 scribed in subsection (a); and

24 (C) meet other criteria as determined by
25 the Administrator.

1 (2) ADDITIONAL FACTORS.—Additional weight
2 may be given to the applications of local govern-
3 ments or consortia that—

4 (A) have statutorily committed to zero
5 waste principles;

6 (B) demonstrate job creation;

7 (C) have partnerships with domestic manu-
8 facturers who will use locally recycled materials
9 to spur the growth of domestic manufacturing
10 businesses and the creation of domestic manu-
11 facturing jobs;

12 (D) address the disproportionate environ-
13 mental, health, and economic burden of waste
14 disposal that is borne by communities of color
15 and low income;

16 (E) propose to use funds for waste preven-
17 tion, reuse, or recycling programs in schools;

18 (F) employ adaptive management practices
19 to identify and address unintended con-
20 sequences as they arise, including potential con-
21 tamination of land, water, air, or food;

22 (G) have a demonstrated need for addi-
23 tional investment in infrastructure and pro-
24 grams to achieve waste prevention, reuse, or re-
25 cycling;

1 (H) will drive technologies for product
2 reuse, recycling, composting, or waste preven-
3 tion;

4 (I) demonstrate ways in which the grant
5 will encourage further investment in waste pre-
6 vention, reuse, recycling, or composting
7 projects; or

8 (J) incorporate multistakeholder involve-
9 ment, including nonprofit, commercial, and pub-
10 lic sector partners.

11 (c) REPORTING.—Grant awardees shall report to the
12 Administrator the results of their project and relevant
13 data requested by the Administrator to track the grant
14 program’s impact.

15 (d) ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—The Administrator
16 shall convene or co-convene an annual conference for cur-
17 rent, past, and potential grantees, and other stakeholders,
18 to learn from each other’s experiences in moving toward
19 a zero waste goal.

20 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) RECYCLING.—The term “recycling” means
22 processing material that has reached the end of its
23 current use into material utilized in the production
24 of new products. The term does not include inciner-
25 ation.

1 (2) REUSE.—The term “reuse” means extend-
2 ing the life of a product, packaging, or resources by
3 either using it more than once for the same or a new
4 function with little to no processing, or repairing it
5 so it can be used longer, sharing or renting it, or
6 selling or donating it to another party. The term
7 does not include incineration.

8 (3) WASTE PREVENTION.—The term “waste
9 prevention” includes—

10 (A) measures or techniques that reduce the
11 amount of wastes generated during industrial
12 production processes; and

13 (B) reuse, recycling, and other efforts to
14 reduce the amount of waste going into the
15 waste stream.

16 (4) ZERO WASTE.—The term “zero waste” is a
17 goal that is ethical, economical, efficient, and vision-
18 ary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and
19 practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles,
20 where all discarded materials are designed to become
21 resources for others to use. Zero waste means de-
22 signing and managing products and processes to sys-
23 tematically avoid and eliminate the volume and tox-
24 icity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all
25 resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing

1 zero waste will eliminate all discharges to land,
2 water, or air that are a threat to planetary, human,
3 animal, or plant health.

